

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024830
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 L-03 A-01 /044 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN:LA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
IO/UNP:LHAGE (SUBS)

-----098343 311231Z /13

R 310242Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PERR, CT

SUBJECT: CAE MISSION DEBTS

REF: (A) USUN 253; (B) STATE 22182

1. DURING CALL ON JANUARY 27 AF/C DIRECTOR RAISED CAE UN MISSION FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH AMBASSADOR MAIDOU. SUBJECT OF COURSE NOT NEW TO MAIDOU WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SEVERE PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN IN PAST. HE WAS AWARE OF MISSION PROBLEMS, BUT NOT EXTENT OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE BANDIO TO COMMISERATE, BUT THAT HE HAD NO MONEY FOR CAE UN MISSION. MAIDOU STATED THAT BANDIO RECENTLY HAD UNDERGONE AN OPERATION BUT THAT WHEN POSSIBLE HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO BANGUI TO STRAIGHTEN OUT MATTERS IN PERSON. MAIDOU WOULD ENCOURAGE BANDIO TO DO THIS.

2. MAIDOU NOTED THAT BANDIO LEFT BANGUI IMMEDIATELY AFTER
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CORONATION WHEREAS OTHER AMBASSADORS HAD REMAINED IN COUNTRY IN ORDER TO SECURE FINANCING FOR THEIR OPERATIONS. ALL WHO STAYED SUCCEEDED. MAIDOU REPORTED THAT EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS CLEARED ALL OUTSTANDING DEBTS INCLUDING DOLLARS 17,000 IN OVERDUE STUDENT ACCOUNTS THROUGHT US.
3. AS COMMENT ON EVICTION OF MISSION PERSONNEL, MAIDOU

STATED THAT CAE NATIONALS RECEIVE SALARIES REGULARLY,
ALTHOUGH QUARTERLY TRANSFERS FOR EMBASSY/MISSION
EXPENSES OFTEN LATE..

4. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT POTENTIAL PRESS PLAY OF MISSION'S
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH
RECENT COVERAGE OF OPULENCE OF CORONATION AND POSSIBLE
MEDIA REACTION TO IMPENDING HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, COULD
EXACERBATE IMAGE PROBLEMS OF GOCAE IN US. MAIDOU AGREED
THAT THIS TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS. HOWEVER, IN
CONTRAST WITH PAST OCCASIONS WHEN HIS OWN EMBASSY WAS
STRAPPED, HE DID NOT SUGGEST USG INTERVENTION VIA EMBASSY
BANGUI IN RESOLVING PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: OTHER THAN ENCOURAGING BANDIO TO RETURN
PERSONALLY TO BANGUI, MAIDOU HAD NO IDEAS ON HOW TO
PROCEED. HE RECOGNIZES PROBLEM BUT AT LOSS TO DEAL WITH
IT.

6. FOR BANGUI: AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY RAISE ISSUE
AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL MFA IN ORDER TO INFORM MINISTRY
OF FACTS OF PROBLEM, I.E. REMOVAL OF PHONES, EVICTIONS,
ETC. YOU MAY ADDITIONALLY DRAW ON PARA 4 ABOVE AS YOU
SEE FIT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE024830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REGRIBBIN:LA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-1224
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaabsi.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9fe7a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 253, 78 STATE 22182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3724198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAE MISSION DEBTS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CT
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9fe7a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014